



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Uniwersytet
Wrocławski

- UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling,
- University of Wrocław
- Institute of Pedagogy

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING FOR SOLIDARITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DIALOGUES IN A DIVERSE WORLD

24 -25 May, 2018
University of Wrocław, Poland

The **UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling** (Institute of Pedagogy, University of Wrocław) is inviting papers, presentations and workshops for our third international conference on **Guidance and Counselling for Solidarity, Social Justice and Dialogues in a Diverse World**. The conference, scheduled 24-25 May, 2018, will be held to inaugurate the international **UNITWIN NETWORK "Life designing interventions (counselling, guidance, education) for decent work and sustainable development"**. The conference marks another robust stage in the work of the UNESCO Chair, which was set up at the University of Wrocław, Poland, under the headship of Professor Jean Guichard (2013-107) in 2013.

Responding to the needs of our world, which copes with crises directly or indirectly resulting from population growth, natural resources depletion and environmental pollution, we would like to consider new challenges posed to guidance and counselling by concerns of social justice, solidarity and dialogue.

The three issues are closely interrelated as social justice entails such social development that enables both individuals and groups to exercise their rights and achieve their legitimate ambitions. In this sense, social justice involves also respect for personal dignity and removal of all discrimination. This ties in with solidarity, which demands an equitable distribution of goods and fair payment for work. Access to decent work is a prerequisite of more humane living conditions and a just social order. Such goals can be accomplished only if dialogue is endorsed as an expression of acceptance and partnership, which help alleviate tensions and, consequently, contribute to peace locally and globally.

One of UNESCO's aims is to implement the ideas enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (whose 70th anniversary is celebrated this year). As Federico Mayor, Director-General UNESCO, said in 1998: "UNESCO's mission is to build the defenses of peace in the minds of men and women, and nowhere can we find more motivated partners in that mission than among those who counsel young people in the course of their education. Whether it be personal, academic or vocational counselling, the primary goal is essentially to form a future generation in the spirit and prospect of peace." The UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling is also committed to such pursuits.

Rife in our world, economic and social inequalities call for new helping strategies targeting, in particular, marginalised people, who are at risk of social exclusion. Career guidance and counselling has a special role in this respect, as it is not only a counsellor-client interaction but also a component of social welfare and policy. We envisage our conference as a platform for sharing experience and information on these pertinent issues among scholars, practitioners and students. The thematic foci of the conference will include the following questions:

- In how far can guidance and counselling interventions contribute to solidarity and social justice?
- Which counselling models best fit the helping process aimed to facilitate access to decent work?
- How can counselling dialogues be modified to enhance the clients' potential, sense of personal dignity and agency?
- What new techniques and instruments should be developed to help counsellors respond to the needs of diverse client groups?

Joining forces and sharing experiences, we deeply believe that counselling and guidance can be effective and meaningful only if they work for solidarity, social justice and dialogue.

Scientific Committee

In the process of being set up

Request for information and registration:

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Languages of the conference will be English and Polish. Individual sessions can also be held in other languages (e.g. French, Spanish, Italian, etc.)